

R^1 represents a linear or branched C_{6-24} alkyl or alkenyl group,

R^2 and R^4 each represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group or $-(AO)_nH$ in which A represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and n is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence,

R^3 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a benzyl group or $-(A'O)_mH$ in which A' represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and m is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A' radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence, and

X^- represents an anion.

2. (Amended) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, which contains the ether functional group containing cationic surfactant of formula (1) in an amount of 0.1 to 20 wt %.

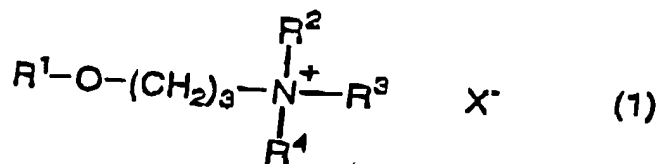
3. (Amended) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, further comprising a surfactant other than the compound of formula (1).

4. (Amended) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 3, wherein the surfactant other than the compound of formula (1) is at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of cationic, anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants.

5. (Amended) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 4, wherein the surfactant other than the compound of formula (1) is a cationic surfactant.

7. (Amended) A hair cleansing composition, which comprises:

(a) an ether functional group containing cationic surfactant represented by formula (1):



wherein

R^1 represents a linear or branched C_{6-24} alkyl or alkenyl group,

R^2 and R^4 each represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group or $-(AO)_nH$ in which A represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and n is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence,

R^3 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a benzyl group or $-(A'O)_mH$ in which A' represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and m is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A' radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence, and

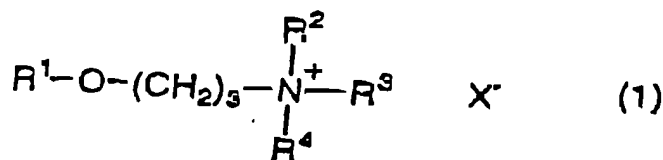
X^- represents an anion; and

(b) at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of cationic, anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants.

Please cancel Claim 11 and add new Claims 13 to 16 as follows:

13. (New) A method for treating hair, comprising:

applying a hair cosmetic composition comprising (a) an ether functional group containing cationic surfactant represented by formula (1):



wherein,

R^1 represents a linear or branched C_{6-24} alkyl or alkenyl group,

R^2 and R^4 each represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group or $-(AO)_nH$ in which A represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and n is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence,

R^3 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group, benzyl group or $-(A'O)_mH$ in which A' represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and m is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A' radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence, and

X^- represents an anion, to the hair.

14. (New) The method of Claim 13, wherein the ether functional group containing cationic surfactant of formula (1) is present in an amount of 0.1 to 20 wt %.

15. (New) The method of Claim 13, which further comprises a surfactant other than the compound of formula (1).

16. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein the surfactant other than the compound of formula (1) is at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of cationic, anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants.

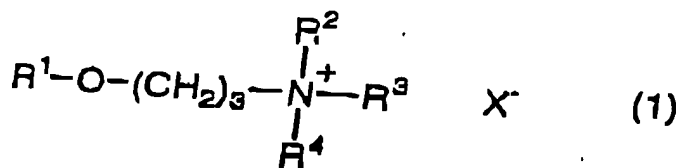
Please cancel Claim 12 and add new Claim 17 as follows:

17. (New) A method for shampooing hair, comprising:

applying the hair cleansing composition of claim 7 to the hair.

Please add new Claims 18 to 23 as follows:

18. (New) A hair cosmetic composition comprising an ether functional group containing cationic surfactant represented by formula (1):



wherein,

R^1 represents a linear or branched C_{6-24} alkyl or alkenyl group,

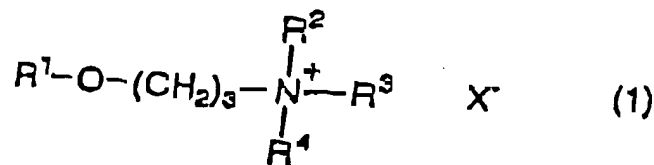
R^2 and R^4 each represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group or $-(AO)_nH$ in which A represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and n is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence,

R^3 represents a benzyl group or $-(A'O)_mH$ in which A' represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and m is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A' radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence, and

X^- represents an anion.

19. (New) A hair cosmetic composition, comprising:

(a) from 0.1 to 20 wt % of an ether functional group containing cationic surfactant represented by formula (1):



wherein,

R^1 represents a linear or branched C_{6-24} alkyl or alkenyl group,

R^2 and R^4 each represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group or $-(AO)_nH$ in which A represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and n is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence,

R^3 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group, a benzyl group or $-(A'O)_mH$ in which A' represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and m is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A' radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence, and

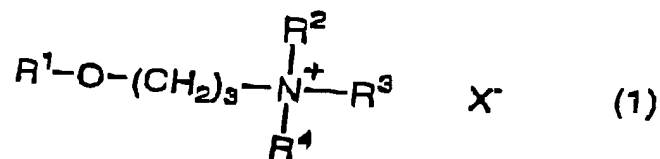
X^- represents an anion; and

(b) at least one surfactant other than the surfactant of formula (1) which is selected from the group consisting of cationic, anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants.

20. (New) A method for treating hair, comprising:

applying a hair cosmetic composition comprising:

(a) from 0.1 to 20 wt % of an ether functional group containing cationic surfactant represented by formula (1):



wherein,

R^1 represents a linear or branched C_{6-24} alkyl or alkenyl group,

R^2 and R^4 each represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group or $-(AO)_nH$ in which A represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and n is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence,

R^3 represents a C_{1-6} alkyl group, benzyl group or $-(A'O)_mH$ in which A' represents a C_{2-4} alkylene group and m is a number from 1 to 6 wherein individual A' radicals are the same or different and are in any sequence, and

X^- represents an anion, and

(b) at least one surfactant other than the surfactant of formula (1) which is selected from the group consisting of cationic, anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants, to the hair.

21. (New) The hair cosmetic composition of Claim 1, wherein the surfactant other than the compound of formula (1) is at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of anionic, nonionic and amphoteric surfactants.